

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 4-8, 13-19, 21, 23, 26-34, 36, 38, and 41-43 are pending in the application, with claims 1 and 23 being the independent claims. Claims 3, 25, 39, and 40 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 1, 4-8, 13-19, 21, 23, 27-34, 36, 38, 41, and 42 are allowed.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the Office Action, the Examiner maintains the rejection of claims 3, 25, 26, 39, 40, and 43 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. In order to expedite allowance of this application, Applicants have canceled claims 3, 25, 39, and 40. Claims 26 and 43 were amended, as suggested by the Examiner, to correct minor defects in form in the Amendment and Reply filed October 23, 2006. The Continuation Sheet of the Advisory Action mailed November 13, 2006 does not provide any statements regarding claims 26 and 43 or any reasons why the previously presented amendments to

claims 26 and 43 would not place the application in condition for allowance. Applicants believe that the inclusion of claims 26 and 43 in the list of rejected claims in item no. 7 of the Advisory Action was a mere typographical error by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Supplemental Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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